

## REVIEWS

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ROTH, H. O. *South Pacific government series; a select list*. 2nd ed. Auckland, Auckland University Library, 1973. 31 p. (Auckland University Library. Bibliographical bulletin 9.)

No country's government publications are easy to sort out bibliographically, and those of the South Pacific area, with its complex administrative history, are among the more difficult. Mr Roth, one of this country's most indefatigable bibliographers, gives us considerable assistance with this straightforward, select listing, that first appeared in 1967. The second edition has now been published, "revised, brought up-to-date and expanded in scope" (introduction).

Geographically it covers the Pacific Island territories south of the equator, from (but excluding) Papua-New Guinea in the West to French Polynesia in the East. The Pitcairn Island Colony, omitted in the first edition, has now been included. Arrangement is initially by administrative divisions; a brief administrative history of each is clear and helpful. Items then appear under standard headings: Annual report, gazette, information bulletin, laws, parliamentary debates, parliamentary papers, reports, statistics, etc. Entry is by title rather than by issuing body as in the first edition.

Revisions and updatings are considerable; the main addition is that of annual reports of government departments and semi-official bodies. Bibliographical details have in many cases been revised, though there are still some that need revision, and in each section there are new items; some of them came into being since the first edition, some of them items of which Mr Roth was previously unaware or uncertain. Auckland University Library and divisional libraries' holdings are given: they appear to have expanded considerably in the past six years, symptomatic of the growing interest in Pacific studies in this country.

The limitations of this guide are inevitable given its occasionally irrational selectiveness. Students would probably find more useful a different type of guide, with key reports listed individually instead of being buried under series entry; the atmosphere of continuing change and development in the Pacific area make desirable a greater emphasis on current material. However, these are minor criticisms, and Mr Roth has done other librarians a great service by publishing this booklet; it assembles a great deal of useful information in one convenient place. Would it be too much to ask if other libraries' holdings of this material could be included in any future edition?

L. E. BATTYE

### Seminar on reader services

*Reader services in university libraries in New Zealand*, ed. by Peter Durey. Auckland, Auckland University Library, 1973. 53 p. (Bibliographical bulletin 8)

This small publication embodies the papers presented at a seminar organised by Mr Durey at the Library School in August 1972, together with an introduction in which he summarises the discussion which followed each paper.